

Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 AGR-05 EB-07 NSF-01 CU-02 HEW-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7880

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DEPT PASS TO HAINES AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, TPHY, IN

SUBJECT: US-INDO JOINT SUBCOMMISSION ON SCIENCE & TECHN-
OLOGY

REF: A. NEW DELHI 3660 B. NEW DELHI 2122

1. EMBASSY SCIENCE OFFICER MET WITH DR. DESHPANDE, DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION, DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (DOST) ON TUESDAY, MARCH 31, AND WAS GIVEN AN UNOFFICIAL RPT UNOFFICIAL COPY OF THE INDIAN RESEARCH PROPOSALS FOR US-INDO COOPERATION ON S&T (BEING POUCHED TODAY BY AIRGRAM). THIS DOCUMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN CLEARED WITH THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (MEA) BUT DOST OFFICIALS ASSURE APPROVAL IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

2. THE THREE INITIAL MAJOR AREAS OF RESEARCH COOPERATION ARE: AGRICULTURE, ENERGY, AND SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION. (SEE REFTEL B). PROPOSALS WILL ALSO BE DEVELOPED IN THE OTHER AGREED AREAS OF COOPERATION, I.E., HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, ELECTRONICS, ETC. ACCORDING TO DESHPANDE.

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3. THE HEALTH PROTOCOLS RECEIVED FROM DHEW FOR US-INDO COOPERATION WERE SUBMITTED TO DOST AND THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MOH) FOR THEIR REVIEW. DR. NAG CHAUDHURI, CHAIRMAN OF THE INDO JOINT SUBCOMMISSION, IS PLANNING TO CALL A MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMISSION IN MID-APRIL TO CONSIDER US PROTOCOLS SUBMITTED FOR INDIAN REVIEW. SO FAR, WE HAVE ONLY RECEIVED THE DHEW HEALTH PROTOCOLS AND UNDERSTAND THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) HAS POUCHED SEVERAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH PROPOSALS TO THE EMBASSY. WE SUGGEST THAT THE REMAINING US AGENCIES' PROTOCOLS BE POUCHED TO ARRIVE IN DELHI BEFORE MID-APRIL.

4. DR. DESHPANDE INDICATED THAT THE \$200,000 AID PROPOSAL FOR S&T COOPERATION WAS STILL UNDER REVIEW BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS/MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DEA/MOF). THE SECRETARY, DOST, HAS RECOMMENDED TO DEA THAT THEY WELCOMED THESE FUNDS AS A POSITIVE MEANS OF FACILITATING THE S&T EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

5. THE DOST RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT SCREENING COMMITTEE (REFTEL A) HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND WILL REVIEW ALL RESEARCH PROJECTS FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION EMANATING FROM THE RESEARCH INSTITUTES UNDER THE CONTROL OF DOST, AS WELL AS LARGE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY PROJECTS THAT WOULD CROSS UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENTS AND THOSE FROM THE INDIAN INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY.

6. THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (MOE) HAS AGREED THAT THE DOST AND THE US-INDO JOINT SUBCOMMISSION ON S&T WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ALL LARGE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY AND MULTI-INSTITUTIONAL PROJECTS INVOLVING THE UNIVERSITIES AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES. THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (MOE) WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SMALL INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH PROJECTS INVOLVING THE UNIVERSITIES, ETC.

7. DESHPANDE REMARKED THAT THE DOST WOULD BE INTERESTED PRIMARILY IN LARGE JOINT MULTI-INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH PROJECTS UNDER THE US-INDO COOPERATION PROGRAM. HE ALSO FEELS THAT DOST WOULD HAVE A MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR MONITORING THE JOINT RESEARCH PROGRAMS AND MUST HAVE AN EXPERT REVIEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PANEL TECHNICALLY EQUIPPED FOR THIS PURPOSE. THE SMALLER INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS BEING FINANCED UNDER THE SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY PROGRAM (SFCP) WOULD BE CONTINUED AS BEFORE AND SCREENED THROUGH THE REGULAR CHANNELS ESTABLISHED FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THESE PROJECTS.
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